

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) An aluminum pigment containing aluminum particles, a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate covering the surface of each of said aluminum particles, a silica coat comprising amorphous silica further covering said molybdenum coat and a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on said silica coat, wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles, and the total content of silicon contained in said silica coat and said coat prepared from a silane coupling agent is in the range of 1 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein said silane coupling agent is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

$R_A - Si(OR_B)_3$ and $R_A - SiR_B(OR_B)_2$, wherein

R_A is an alkyl group or an aryl group or an alkenyl group, having 2 to 18 carbon atoms
and

R_B is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbon atoms.

6. (Previously Presented) A resin composition comprising the aluminum pigment according to claim 1 and a resin, wherein the content of said aluminum pigment is in the range of 0.1 to 30 percent by mass of overall said resin composition.

7-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment including the steps of:

forming a molybdenum coat comprising a molybdenum oxide and/or a molybdenum hydrate on the surface of each aluminum particle by stirring a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles and a molybdenum compound;

forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound; and

forming a coat prepared from a silane coupling agent on the surface of said silica coat of each said aluminum particle by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing said aluminum particles each having said silica coat, said silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said silane coupling agent,

wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles, and the total content of silicon contained in said silica coat and said coat prepared from a silane coupling agent is in the range of 1 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

13-14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method of manufacturing an aluminum pigment by adjusting the pH of a dispersive solution containing aluminum particles each having a molybdenum coat, an organic silicon compound, a silane coupling agent and a hydrolytic catalyst thereby hydrolyzing said organic silicon compound and said silane coupling agent for forming a silica coat comprising amorphous silica on the surface of said molybdenum coat of each said aluminum particle while forming a coat prepared from said silane coupling agent thereon,

wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.01 to 5 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles, and the total content of silicon contained in said silica coat and said coat prepared from a silane coupling agent is in the range of 1 to 20 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.

16. (New) The aluminum pigment according to claim 1, wherein the content of said molybdenum is in the range of 0.05 to 2 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles, and the total content of silicon contained in said silica coat and said coat prepared from a silane coupling agent is in the range of 2 to 15 parts by mass with respect to 100 parts by mass of said aluminum particles.